



RBTT Bank sponsors the printing of “Canastro Musical”

Yesterday, noted Aruban musician and composer Eric F. Tchong presented his latest book of music to Mieke de Droog, the director of the Fundacion Aruban di esnan Visualmente Incapacita, or FAVI, the foundation to assist the visually impaired.

The RBTT Bank of Aruba sponsored the project for a number of reasons; not only to assist FAVI in raising funds, but also “for preservation,” reported RBTT Sales and Marketing Manager Robert Moons. “Many of the pieces presented in the book are very old, the music manuscripts were nearly indecipherable or parts were missing, but now, though the efforts of Mr. Tchong, the works have been restored and are now preserved for posterity, digitally.” The bank management feels that the occasion of Aruba’s celebration of its own flag and national anthem, Himno y Bandera Day, March 18, is an appropriate time to present the book to FAVI.

Edna Farro, President of the RBTT Bank was also present at the FAVI center in Primavera to do the honors, and expressed that the bank is very proud to finance this effort to aid a very good cause, but also to conserve some classic Aruban culture.

The book of seventy instrumental works contains the classic music of both Aruba and Curacao as exemplified by waltzes, tumbas, foxtrots, mazurka and polkas. Aside from the ten pieces composed by Mr. Tchong, the body of the compositions predates his birth in 1941, some of them composed in the early 1800’s.

“Canastro” is a word that describes a tool used by island fishermen, and the name of the book, according to Mr. Tchong, means “A fish bucket of music.” “It is a miracle to enjoy music that has been composed before my year of birth, 1941,” he reveals in his prolog, “Thanks for the beautiful inheritance of J.S. Corsen, Sra Abigail de G. Salas, C. Ulder, Julio E. Leyba, J.B.A. Palm and A.Z. Lopez – Penha”

Additionally included in the collection and acknowledged for their contribution to Aruba’s cultural heritage are Rufo Wever and Padu Lampe, the composers of Aruba’s National Anthem, Oswald Wever, Titchi Zeppenfeldt, Jacques de Miranda, Epifanio F. Schwengle, J.R. Chan, Carlos F. Croes, Tino Ruiz, Victor Camacho, and Alphonso (Buchi) Boekhoudt. “Their inspirations have enlarged our cultural richness. May the whole world enjoy our music,” concludes Mr. Tchong in the book’s introduction. Mr. Tchong has published two other books of music, titled “Cancionero Arubano;” collections of traditional Aruban songs, but after many request from musicians decided to publish this work of instrumental pieces. RBTT sponsored its printing and presented it to FAVI, where the books will be sold to assist their foundation and continue their important work in assisting Aruba’s blind to live fuller lives.

FAVI is active in the early detection of visual impairment and the special education needed by children to preserve and develop the little vision of which they are capable. They offer handicraft workshops for the visually impaired and especially an equipped workout room and computer facilities. The books are being sold for thirty Aruban florins each (\$17 U.S.) and directions to their center can be obtained by calling telephone numbers 582-5222 or 582-5051. Tomorrow, from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM, FAVI will host a Himno y Bandera Day celebration for their staff and “clients,” and Mr. Tchong has graciously agreed to play some selections from his new book and the keyboard and to autograph copies.

Donations to FAVI can be made directly through the RBTT account #31.36.612. For more information about FAVI visit their website: www.favi.org.